Claims

1. A jackpot wagering system, comprising:

    a player terminal operable by a player to place a wager on a turn of at least
    one game of chance, the wager having a maximum limit;

    an accumulation facility responsive to placement of the wager to accumulate
    a portion thereof in an accumulation account;

    a random event generator activatable to generate a random event upon
    which an outcome of the at least one game of chance is based, the outcome
    including a favourable outcome causing the player to win a determinable
    portion of the contents of the accumulation account; and

    a determination facility responsive to placement of the wager to determine,
    prior to activation of the random event generator, the determinable portion
    of the contents of the accumulation account as a function of at least the size
    of the wager and the maximum limit thereof.

2. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 1 in which the player
    terminal is operable to place a wager on a turn of any one of a plurality of
    different selectable games of chance, each one of the plurality of different
    games of chance having a corresponding maximum limit for a wager and a
    respective favourable outcome causing the player to win a determinable
    portion of the contents of the accumulation account.

3. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in either one of claims 1 or 2 in which
    the wager is denominatable in any one of a number different permissible
    playing currencies.

4. A jackpot wagering system as claimed claim 3 in which the contents of the
    accumulation account are denominatable in a base currency which is
    stronger than or equal to a strongest one of the permissible playing
    currencies.

5. A jackpot wagering systems as claimed in claim 4 in which the strongest one of the permissible playing currencies is the base currency.

6. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in either one of claims 4 or 5 in which the maximum limit of the wager is denominated in the base currency.

7. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 6 that includes a conversion facility instructable to convert a wager from any one of the different permissible playing currencies to an equivalent wager in the base currency.

8. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 7 in which the conversion facility includes a stored spot exchange rate from any one of the permissible playing currencies to the base currency, the stored spot exchange rates being selectively updateable from time to time.

9. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 8 in which the wager is denominatable as an integral number of units or an integral number of fractional units of any one of the permissible playing currencies.

10. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the function by which the determination facility determines the portion of the contents of the accumulation account to be won by the player is a ratio of the size of the wager to the maximum limit thereof.

11. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 10 in which the determination facility determines the size of the wager as a function of the particular permissible playing currency in which the wager is denominated and a corresponding denomination of the of units or fractional units of that playing currency.

12. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 11 in which the determination facility determines the maximum limit of the wager as a function of the base currency.

5   13. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which each one of the plurality of different games of chance has a corresponding jackpot cycle.

14. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 13 in which the
10   determination facility determines the determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account as a function of at least the size of the wager, a maximum limit thereof, and the jackpot cycle of the selected game of chance.

15   15. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 14 in which the function by which the determination facility determines the portion of the contents of the accumulation account to be won by the player is a product of a ratio of the size of the wager to the maximum limit thereof, and a relative size of the jackpot cycle of the selected game of chance.

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16. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 15 in which the relative size of the jackpot cycle of the selected game is a ratio of the jackpot cycle of the selected game to the greatest jackpot cycle of any one of the plurality of different selectable games.

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17. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the outcome of the at least one game of chance includes a plurality of different partially favourable outcomes, each partially favourable outcome causing the portion of the contents of the accumulation account won by the
30   player to be to be proportionally reduced.

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18. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 17 in which the reduction in response to the occurrence of a partially favourable outcome of the game of chance is proportional to the probability of occurrence of the corresponding outcome.

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19. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in either one of claims 17 or 18 in which the outcome of the at least one game of chance includes three partially favourable outcomes, or five partially favourable outcomes.

10　20. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the portion of the wager accumulated in the accumulation account by the accumulation facility is a predetermined percentage of the wager.

21. A jackpot wagering system as claimed in claim 20 in which the
15　　　predetermined percentage of the wager is about three percent.

22. A method for jackpot wagering, comprising the steps of:
placing a wager on a turn of at least one game of chance, the wager having a maximum limit;
20　　　accumulating a portion of the wager in an accumulation account;
generating a random event upon which an outcome of the at least one game of chance is based, the outcome including a favourable outcome causing the player to win a determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account; and
25　　　determining, prior to generating the random event, the determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account as a function of at least the size of the wager and the maximum limit thereof.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22 which includes a further step of placing a
30　　　wager on a turn of any one of a plurality of different selectable games of chance, each one of the plurality of different games of chance having a

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corresponding maximum limit for the wager and a respective favourable outcome causing the player to win a determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account.

24. A method as claimed in either one of claims 22 or 23 in which the wager is denominated in any one of a number of different permissible playing currencies.

25. A method as claimed in claim 24 in which the contents of the accumulation account are denominated in a base currency which is stronger than or equal to a strongest one of the permissible playing currencies.

26. A method as claimed in claim 25 in which the strongest one of the permissible playing currencies is selected as the base currency.

27. A method as claimed in any either one of claims 25 or 26 in which the maximum limit of the wager is denominated in the base currency.

28. A method as claimed in claim 27 in which a wager from any one of the different permissible playing currencies is converted to an equivalent wager in the base currency.

29. A method as claimed in claim 28 in which a stored spot exchange rate is provided from any one of the permissible playing currencies to the base currency, the stored spot exchange rates being selectively updated from time to time.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29 in which the wager is denominated as an integral number of units or an integral number of fractional units of any one of the permissible playing currencies.

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31. A method as claimed in any one of claim 22 to 30 in which the portion of the contents of the accumulation account to be won by the player is determined as a ratio of the size of the wager to the maximum limit thereof.

5   32. A method as claimed in claim 31 in which the size of the wager is determined as a function of the particular permissible playing currency in which the wager is denominated and a corresponding denomination of the of units or fractional units of that playing currency.

10   33. A method as claimed in claim 32 in which the maximum limit of the wager is determined as a function of the base currency.

34. A method as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 33 that includes the further step of determining a jackpot cycle of each one of the plurality of different
15   games of chance.

35. A method as claimed in claim 34 in which the determinable portion of the contents of the accumulation account is determined, prior to generating the random event, as a function of at least the size of the wager, a maximum
20   limit thereof, and a jackpot cycle of the selected game of chance.

36. A method as claimed in claim 35 in which the portion of the contents of the accumulation account to be won by the player is determined as a product of a ratio of the size of the wager to the maximum limit thereof, and a relative
25   size of the jackpot cycle of the selected game of chance.

37. A method as claimed in claim 36 in which the relative size of the jackpot cycle of the selected game is determined as a ratio of the jackpot cycle of the selected game to the greatest jackpot cycle of any one of the plurality of
30   different selectable games.

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38. A method as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 37 that includes the step of establishing a plurality of different partially favourable outcomes for the at least one game of chance, each partially favourable outcome causing the portion of the contents of the accumulation account won by the player to be proportionally reduced.

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39. A method as claimed in claim 38 in which the reduction of the contents of the accumulation account won by the player in response to the occurrence of a partially favourable outcome of the game of chance is proportional to the probability of occurrence of the corresponding outcome.

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40. A method as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 39 in which the portion of the wager accumulated in the accumulation account is a predetermined percentage of the wager.

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